

# Why is Paul in the Bible?

## Introduction

- One of the most significant events in the Word of God is the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, later known as the apostle \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 9:1-9
- The conversion of Paul marked the beginning of the unfolding of the mystery of God's purpose and grace for the past 2,000 years.
- Why Paul? Why is he in the Bible? If Christ already had twelve apostles that he had trained for over three years, why was there a need for another apostle?
- In this lesson, we will seek to answer the question from God's Word, "Why Paul?"

**Paul was given divine \_\_\_\_\_ that had previously been kept secret.**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ had been well-schooled in God's prophetic plan.
  - Israel would be the vehicle through which the \_\_\_\_\_ nations would have the knowledge of God and of Christ, as Messiah and King.
2. The twelve knew this plan and were anxiously awaiting its fulfillment. Acts 1:6
  - They knew that the prophetic plan had to begin with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel. Matthew 10:23; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8
  - Acts 3:19-26 is a key passage which reveals the twelve's understanding of God's prophetic plan.
3. When persecution arose in Jerusalem, and the believing Jews were scattered, the twelve bravely \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem, firmly committed to God's prophetic plan. Acts 8:1
4. But hidden in God was a \_\_\_\_\_ time period that God did not reveal to anybody, including the twelve. Paul called it "...the dispensation of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God..." Ephesians 3:2
5. This body of truth concerning God's grace was kept \_\_\_\_\_. It was a mystery in previous time, but revealed in due time to the apostle Paul by direct revelation of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 3:1-10; Colossians 1:25-27

- It was revealed that Christ's death was, in fact, a blessing and the source of God's \_\_\_\_\_. Christ made a full atonement for the sins of \_\_\_\_\_ mankind on the cross.
6. The twelve had never explained the cross in this light before. Why is this? Simply because it was not \_\_\_\_\_ yet. This was the good news that God revealed to Paul. Galatians 1:11-12, 2:2, 6-9
- Peter understood that the prophets had foretold Christ's death, but they did not preach or understand the \_\_\_\_\_ for sin on the cross. They did not understand the redemption, reconciliation, or forgiveness that was to be extended to mankind through the death of Christ on the cross.  
Acts 2:23-24, 37-38, 3:13-20, 4:2, 10-12, 33, 5:29-32, 7:52-53, 8:12, 35-37, 10:39-43
7. Do you see now why God raised up Paul? God saved His chief enemy and extended to him grace. To this man God would make known the fact that God was now going to give to \_\_\_\_\_ of His enemies in the world a time of unprecedented grace.
8. God would send His grace directly to the world through the work of atonement that Christ made for \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross.

**Next week we will continue to answer the question, "Why Paul?"**